

# 71. Tales of spades

By Ron Klinger

North dealer : East-West vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	?

What would you do as South with:

♠ 4  
♥ A98762  
♦ QJ7  
♣ J75

The deal arose in the semi-finals of the Open Team Playoffs to select the 2017 team.

North dealer : East-West vulnerable

	North		
	♠ J1063		
	♥ 53		
	♦ A9863		
	♣ A2		
West		East	
♠ KQ52		♠ A987	
♥ KJ		♥ Q104	
♦ K		♦ 10542	
♣ K109843		♣ Q6	
	South		
	♠ 4		
	♥ A98762		
	♦ QJ7		
	♣ J75		

West	North	East	South
<i>Milne</i>	<i>J. O'Shea</i>	<i>Griffiths</i>	<i>Doecke</i>
	1NT <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>(2)</sup>
Dble <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dble <sup>(3)</sup>	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

(1) 9-12 points at this vulnerability

(2) Transfer to hearts

(3) Takeout of hearts

North led ♥5, ducked to ♥J. After ♠A and ♠K, West played the ♣3. North took ♣A and continued with the ♥3. South won and returned ♦Q, king, ace. Declarer lost a trump trick, plus the three missing aces, one light, -100.

West	North	East	South
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Nunn</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♣	Dble <sup>(1)</sup>	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

(1) Negative double

West led ♣10, ace. After ♣2, won by ♣Q, East switched to ♥4. South took ♥A and played ♣J: king - ♥5 - ♥10. East switched to the ♠7. West won ♠Q and played a club, ruffed by ♥Q. South discarded ♦7. South lost a spade, three hearts and a club, but had eight tricks for +110, no swing.

	North	
	♠ J1063	
	♥ 53	
	♦ A9863	
	♣ A2	
West		East
♠ KQ52		♠ A987
♥ KJ		♥ Q104
♦ K		♦ 10542
♣ K109843		♣ Q6
	South	
	♠ 4	
	♥ A98762	
	♦ QJ7	
	♣ J75	

On a BBO replay, with humans E-W and robots N-S, it went:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2♥
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the ♠J and declarer made ten tricks, +130.

North dealer : East-West vulnerable

North passes and East opens 1♣. What would you do with:

♠ AKQ764  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ KJ9  
 ♣ A96

Suppose you have chosen to double. It then goes:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♥	Pass	2♥	?

What now?

What if the auction had started:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Dble
3♦	Pass	Pass	?

What now?

The deal comes from a Swedish Teams' Championship:

	North	
	♠ J1052	
	♥ J1054	
	♦ 65	
	♣ 1042	
West		East
♠ 98		♠ 3
♥ Q8732		♥ AK6
♦ Q1072		♦ A843
♣ QJ		♣ K8753
	South	
	♠ AKQ764	
	♥ 9	
	♦ KJ9	
	♣ A96	

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♥	Pass	2♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

With a 5-loser hand, that looks like quite an overbid. There is a case for bidding 2♠. If partner can provide two winners, which is what you need, partner will bid again. You can justify a jump to 3♠. That asks partner bid to bid game with one sure trick. Give partner the ♦A and 2, 3 or 4 spades and 4♠ is a fine spot. Replace North's ♠10 with the ♠K and again 4♠ is a good spot. That jump to 4♠ is very optimistic.

At the other table, it went:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♦	Dble
3♦	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

There is a better case for 4♠ here than in the previous auction. Even so, there is no guarantee of a spade fit with North. A 3♠ bid here by South is a strong action, even without a jump. North can reasonably think that if South can bid 3♠ with no guarantee of support opposite, then support plus a sure winner should be enough for 4♠. With trump support and no tricks, North would / should pass 3♠.

The BBO replay:

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♣	Dble
1♥	Pass	2♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

With five losers and a powerful 6-card suit, the South hand is too strong for a simple 1♠ overcall. These hands are generally shown via takeout double and bid your suit later. South might have bid just 2♠, but South figured that with the right winner opposite plus a few spades, game would be a decent chance. You could give North three spades, the ♦Q and a doubleton club and game is feasible. With a slightly better hand, game would be a good chance. That prompted the jump to 3♠, a conservative action compared with the jumps to 4♠ at the other tables.

North might have passed 3♠ but took a rosy view of the 4-card trump support and the doubleton diamond. Note that 4♠ fails even if you improve South's diamonds to AJ9. In the Swedish event, both Souths were one down when they played a diamond to the king. If you play a diamond to the ♦J, you go two down.

## Problems for Tomorrow:

1. East dealer : Both vulnerable

West	North	East	South
4♥	Dble	3♥	Dble
Pass	5NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Dble	7♠
			All Pass

What would you lead as West from:

♠ 7  
♥ Q108  
♦ Q73  
♣ J96532

2. With both vulnerable, West opens 2NT. East bids 3♦, transfer to hearts. What would you do as South with:

♠ 753  
♥ Q  
♦ AKQ1095  
♣ 973

**Why not phone or email your bridge partners and compare your answers and your reasoning?**

*Homeschooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.*